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wherein an azimuth of the half-wave plate within the optical recording medium is multilevel-modulated so that information is recorded on the optical recording medium by the recording light.

21. (Six Times Amended) An optical recording medium, comprising an optical recording layer that includes a material in which an azimuth of birefringence that is induced by a recording light externally controlled from the optical recording medium to rotate a polarization angle of the recording light changes in response to a rotation of the polarization angle of said recording light; and

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a substrate which sustains the optical recording layer,

wherein an azimuth of the optical recording layer is multilevel-modulated so that information is recorded on the optical recording medium by the recording light.

35. (Six Times Amended) An optical recording medium, comprising an optical recording layer including an optical recording material that stores multilevel information using a light induced birefringence that acts optically as a half-wave plate, an orientation of an azimuth of birefringence formed by a recording light representing the multilevel information, the recording light externally controlled from the optical recording medium to rotate a polarization angle of the recording light; and

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a substrate which sustains the optical recording layer,

wherein the azimuth of birefringence formed by the recording light is multilevel-modulated so that information is recorded on the optical recording medium by the recording light.

37. (Six Times Amended) An optical recording medium, comprising an optical recording layer including an optical recording material that stores multilevel information using a light induced birefringence that acts optically as a quarter-wave plate, an orientation of an azimuth of birefringence induced by controllably rotating a polarization angle of a

recording light externally from the optical recording medium that represents the multilevel information; and

a substrate which sustains the optical recording layer,

wherein the orientation of the azimuth of birefringence is multilevel-modulated so that information is recorded on the optical recording medium by the recording light.

39. (Six Times Amended) An optical recording medium, comprising an optical recording layer in which an azimuth of birefringence induced by controllably rotating a polarization angle of a recording light externally from the optical recording medium is multilevel-modulated and recorded in response to a rotation of a polarization angle of said recording light; and

a substrate which sustains the optical recording layer;

wherein the azimuth of birefringence is multilevel-modulated so that information is recorded on the optical recording medium by the recording light.

55. (Six Times Amended) An optical recording medium, comprising an optical recording layer in which an optical element is formed by a recording light that is externally controlled from the optical recording medium to rotate a polarization angle of the recording light, the optical element having an azimuth of birefringence and acting on reproducing light to adjust a polarization angle of the reproducing light by an amount greater than a difference between a polarization angle of the recording light used to form the optical element and a polarization angle of the reproducing light before the reproducing light is acted on by the optical element; and

a substrate which sustains the optical recording layer,

wherein the reproducing light is directed onto the optical recording medium after the azimuth of birefringence of the optical element has been multilevel-modulated so that recorded information can be reproduced.

Please add new claims 56-61 as follows:

--56. The optical recording medium of claim 55, wherein the optical recording layer comprises at least one of a polymer and a liquid crystal polymer.--

--57. The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein the optical recording material of the optical recording layer comprises at least one of a polymer and a liquid crystal polymer.--

--58. The optical recording medium of claim 21, wherein the material of the optical recording layer comprises at least one of a polymer and a liquid crystal polymer.--

--59. The optical recording medium of claim 35, wherein the optical recording material of the optical recording layer comprises at least one of a polymer and a liquid crystal polymer.--

--60. The optical recording medium of claim 37, wherein the optical recording material of the optical recording layer comprises at least one of a polymer and a liquid crystal polymer.--

--61. The optical recording medium of claim 39, wherein the optical recording layer comprises at least one of a polymer and a liquid crystal polymer.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-61 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment and the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, claims 1-55 are withdrawn from allowance, claims 1, 21, 35, 37, 39 and 55 are amended and new claims 56-61 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.